

Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Task Force

Legislative Budget Request Form

Request Description

Describe the item or project for which you are requesting funding.

The Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MnCCC) Corrections User Group (a consortium of all probation and Community Corrections agencies in Minnesota) and the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) seeks funding for a joint software development project to modernize and improve the electronic process of managing offenders release from prison to community supervision. The computer systems involved are the DOC's Corrections Operations Management System (COMS), used in all prisons, and the CSTS software, which is the case management system used by all counties providing community supervision. The project will include all system design, software development, testing, deployment, and training. This new technology will distribute needed offender information to the counties, manage electronic communications between the DOC and all involved counties, eliminate data redundancy, ensure release timeframes are met, improve offender accountability, and provide new offender outcome reporting opportunities.

Estimated Cost: \$200,000

Statewide Impact/Value

Describe the statewide impact and/or value of the item or project described above.

DOC releases between 7,000 and 8,000 offenders from its prisons every year. Of that number, over 85% are released to some form of community supervision. Offenders are released into every county in the state with 17 different probation agencies and hundreds of probation agents involved in the released planning process. Over 50,000 messages are exchanged each year between DOC and the community supervision agencies. A conservative estimate of only 30 minutes saved per release would yield an annual savings of \$225,000 in staff time saved each year resulting in a Return on Investment (ROI) over 4 years of 450%.

Background/Context

Describe the issue this request is designed to address.

DOC is responsible over 10,000 offenders in its prison facilities at any given time. In accordance with Minnesota statute, most offenders will be released into the community for an additional supervision period. As a part of the release planning process, extensive communication has to occur between prison case managers and community supervision agents. Often agents from more than one county are involved in order to ensure that the most appropriate release plan is put in place with public safety as the driving factor. In an effort to make the communication process more efficient and acknowledging that time is of the essence, the DOC and the county software collaborative automated the initial release planning communication process in 2006. This electronic process created a communication pathway between the DOC and recipient county probation agencies. However, advances in technology as well as growing public safety needs are requiring significant enhancements in order to create a more integrated approach to release planning.

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When completed, email this form to crimnet.support@state.mn.us.